

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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-----281953Z 012752 /50

P 281909Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1096
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
USMISSION NATO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 09087

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, GW, UK, US, UR, FR, GE
SUBJ: FRENCH VIEWS ON RECENT GDR ACTIONS AFFECTING
BERLIN

REFS: A. STATE 67315. B. STATE 66550.

1. VISIT BY EUR/CE'S KORNBLUM AND CHESTER OFFERED
MOST USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR REVIEW CURRENT FRENCH
THINKING ON RECENT GDR ACTIONS AFFECTING BERLIN WITH
QUAI'S DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR CENTRAL EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
PLAISANT.

2. PLAISANT ADMITTED THAT FRENCH EVALUATION OF
SIGNIFICANCE OF GDR ACTIONS HAD CHANGED FROM A CERTAIN
COMPLAISANCE WHICH PREVAILED A FEW WEEKS AGO. FRENCH
NOW VIEW SITUATION AS "RATHER SERIOUS." CHANGE IS
PARTLY DUE TO CUMULATIVE EFFECT GDR ACTIONS,
PARTLY TO WORMSER'S REPORT OF HIS LUNCHEON WITH
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ABRASSIMOV, WHICH WAS FIRST HIGH-LEVEL PAPER ON
BERLIN TO REALLY ATTRACT DE GUIRINGAUD'S ATTENTION
SINCE LATTER'S VISIT THERE.

3. FRENCH THINKING ON GDR ASPECT OF PROBLEM, PLAISANT
CONTINUED, HAS NOT YET CULMINATED IN DECISIONS. PROB-
LEM IS COMPLICATED BY QUAI'S RECOGNITION THAT ITS

MEANS OF EXERTING EFFECTIVE, RATHER THAN MERELY EXHORTATORY PRESSURE ON GDR ARE LIMITED. FOR PRESENT FRENCH ARE NEVERTHELESS EXAMINING TWO LINES OF APPROACH:

(A) FIRST, AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED FROM HERE AND ELSEWHERE, IS TO FREEZE FURTHER FRENCH OFFICIAL VISITS. AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL, PLAISANT SAID, THIS IS EASY, SINCE DE GUIRINGAUD "IS NOT EAGER AT ALL" TO GO. FRENCH HAVE ALSO ALREADY TURNED DOWN GDR BID FOR STATE SECRETARY TAITTINGER TO GO HIS PLACE. GDR, IN TURN, HAS REJECTED FRENCH SUGGESTION THAT POLITICAL DIRECTOR, DE LABOULAYE, GO INSTEAD AS INFRA DIG. AS RESULT FRENCH SENIOR VISITS TO GDR ARE IN FACT NOT IN CARDS FOR TIME BEING.

(B) FRENCH ARE ALSO CONSIDERING FEW OTHER STEPS. PLAISANT PLANS TO RECOMMEND THAT THE SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT THE FRENCH HAVE JUST FINISHED NEGOTIATING WITH THE GDR SIMPLY NOT BE INITIALED UNTIL THE GDR'S BEHAVIOR IMPROVES. HE WAS ALSO INTRIGUED BY KORNBLUM'S ACCOUNT OF US ACTIONS IN NOT GIVING GDR TECHNICIANS DESIRED PERMANENT VISAS AND THOUGHT FRENCH MIGHT FOLLOW SUIT.

IN GENERAL TERMS, PLAISANT STRONGLY AGREED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT NOT TO FRUSTRATE THE GDR ACROSS-THE-BOARD, SINCE THIS MIGHT HAVE THE OPPOSITE TO

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DESIRED EFFECT OF WORSENING RATHER THAN IMPROVING ITS ACTIONS ON BERLIN. BASIC PHILOSOPHY SHOULD BE TO MAKE SURE GDR UNDERSTANDS THAT ALLIES CONSIDER THEM PRAGMATICALLY, BUT NOT LEGALLY RESPONSIBLE "LIKE A JUVENILE, WHOSE FATHER PAYS THE FINE, BUT WHO STILL GETS MOST OF THE BLAME." FINALLY, HE TOO STRESSED OBVIOUS IMPORTANCE CONTINUED CLOSE ALLIED COORDINATION IN THIS FIELD.

4. AS REGARDS THE SOVIETS, PLAISANT THOUGHT THAT THE ONLY EFFECTIVE FIRST STEP TOWARD PERSUADING THEM THAT PRESSURE ON BERLIN WAS BECOMING COUNTERPRODUCTIVE WOULD BE THROUGH DIRECT HIGH-LEVEL STATEMENTS. TO THIS END THOUGHT WAS BEING GIVEN IN PARIS TO HAVING DE GUIRINGAUD TELL THE SOVIETS PLAINLY WHEN HE GOES TO MOSCOW EARLY IN JUNE "THAT IT IS TIME TO STOP." CONVERSELY, HOWEVER, PLAISANT ALSO THOUGHT THAT ANY STATEMENT ON BERLIN WHICH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY EMERGE FROM THE UPCOMING LONDON SUMMIT BE CONCISE AND CARE-CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLY PHRASED, SINCE SOVIETS WOULD FULLY DISCOUNT ANY LONG ARGUMENTATIVE STATEMENT AS ISSUED FOR WESTERN PUBLIC EFFECT.

5. COMMENT: PLAISANT'S APPROACH TO GDR OUTLINED PARA 4 ABOVE SEEMS VERY MUCH IN LINE WITH DEPARTMENT'S THINKING REFTEL A. FRENCH THEREFORE SHOULD NOT PROVE MAJOR PROBLEM IN BONN GROUP DISCUSSION THIS INSTRUCTION.
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